

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME**

Emergency Order No. 1-RS-H-21-04

Issued at Yakutat, Wednesday, July 28, 2004

Effective            12:01 A.M.  
Date:                Thursday, July 29, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Friday,  
December 31, 2004. Unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-RS-H-18-04 issued Sunday, July 16, 2004, which closed the Situk River to all sport fishing upstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip and reduced the sport fishing bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Situk River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip from 6 to 2 fish.

This Emergency Order opens the Situk River to sport fishing upstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip. In addition it prohibits the retention of sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Situk River upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip from July 30 through December 31, 2004, and reduces the sport fishing bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length in the Situk River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip from 6 to 2 fish.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska (6)(E) and (F) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

(6) in the Situk River Drainage,

(E) the retention of sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length is prohibited upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip;

(F) downstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Middle Situk Airstrip, the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater in length is two fish.

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for an optimum escapement goal of 50,000 sockeye salmon, with an escapement range of 30,000 to 70,000 spawners. The weir count on July 27 was 39,975 sockeye. Normally 87% of the run has passed the weir by this time. However, when sport sockeye salmon harvest above the weir is factored in, the sockeye escapement will fall near the lower end of the escapement goal range.

Water levels in the Situk River have improved due to recent rainfall. As a result, sockeye salmon are again able to migrate unimpeded through the upper reaches of the Situk River system. Seasonal sport fishing effort has also declined dramatically. By rescinding the sport fishing closure in the upper river, sport fishing opportunity is being provided without jeopardizing the sockeye salmon run.

Managers will continue to monitor the situation and take additional management actions as necessary depending on water levels and future run strength.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.

Kevin C. Duffy  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert Johnson  
Yakutat Area Management Biologist